

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION COME-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5783
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 1189

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BENC, EWWT, LY
SUBJECT: EARLY ALERT ON MAJOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

1. THE OFFICIAL LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY JANA ANNOUNCED AUGUST 21 THAT THE GENERAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE "HAS AGREED TO APPOINT AN INTERNATIONAL SPECIALIZED COMPANY TO PRESENT (SIC) ITS TENDER ON THE PROJECT OF ENLARGING BENGHAZI PORT AT A COST OF 81,944,249 LIBYAN DINARS. THE DURATION OF THE PROJECT WILL BE ABOUT FIVE AND A HALF YEARS STARTING FROM THE DATE OF CONTRACT."

2. WE TAKE THE ABOVE TO MEAN THE LIBYAN CABINET HAS APPROVED THE SELECTION BY THE PORTS AND LIGHTS AUTHORITY OF A FOREIGN CONSULTING COMPANY, PROBABLY EASTERN EUROPEAN, TO PREPARE THE TENDER FOR THIS \$277 MILLION PROJECT. THIS MAY BE THE SAME PROJECT REPORTED AS A GTO IN 1975 TRIPOLI 0312 WHEREIN IT WAS NOTED THAT TENDER DOCUMENTS WOULD BE AVAILABLE IN JUNE 1975. IF SO, THE PROJECT HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLY DELAYED, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF THE VOLUME OF OTHER PORT CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY IN THE INTERIM, AND THE GOVERNMENT'S APPROACH TO TENDER PREPARATION HAS CHANGED. BUT THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THE PROJECT WILL NOT EVENTUALLY BE CARRIED OUT.
EAGLETON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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